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INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DECISIONS RELATIVE TO FIRE PROTECTION¹

By J. N. CHESTER

The accompanying tabulation of fire protection charges made against municipalities by different public utility commissions will, no doubt, prove interesting to many managers of private water companies, especially those who have in the past wondered whether or not they are receiving from the municipality the full amount to which they are entitled, and to others who realize they must have an increase in rates. To them it may serve as a partial guide to that portion of the burden that should be allocated to fire service.

It will be noticed that the charges are mainly from Wisconsin, there being but one from Indiana and one from Illinois, but it is interesting to see that these two states have followed close in the footsteps of Wisconsin.

It would probably be better, however, to those contemplating activities in rate regulation, to more thoroughly study Pennsylvania decisions, and to assist them the author has prepared the tabulation on page 322 of five different decisions that have been rendered by the Pennsylvania Commission, setting out and featuring only those items incident to the fire protection charges.

The author's firm has for its own use prepared from these tabulations curves from which it can forecast beyond the limits. With more time to tabulate additional decisions, it is hoped to make these curves of great value and assistance in the work of dividing the gross burden between the municipality and the domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers.

¹ Read before the Pennsylvania Water Works Association on October 18, 1918, and printed in the Journal of the American Water Works Association in order that it may be available for the use of the latter Association's members.

*Fire protection charges made against the municipality by Public Utility
Commissions*

DATE OF DECISION	CITY	STATE	POPULATION, 1910	PER CENT OF WATER WORKS CHARGED TO FIRE SERVICE	VALUE OF PLANT	GROSS REVENUE	REVENUE FROM FIRE	PER CENT OF GROSS REVENUE FROM FIRE
1913	Elkhart Lake.....	Wis.	950	59.0	\$8,425		\$ 600	
1912	Sharon.....	Wis.	1,100	*52.0			1,000	
1914	Waterloo.....	Wis.	1,106	60.0	30,500		1,500	
1913	Fennimore.....	Wis.	1,275	*55.0	23,046		1,500	
1914	Elroy.....	Wis.	1,450	47.4	32,215		1,500	
1915	Barron.....	Wis.	1,674		35,000		1,392	
1912	Evansville.....	Wis.	1,963	64.1	37,122	\$4,813	2,500	52.0
1914	Vaughn.....	Wis.		53.0	38,000	6,860	2,800	40.8
1917	River Falls.....	Wis.	2,300	54.6	56,000	*9,429	*3,240	34.4
1913	Delevan.....	Wis.	2,450	64.0	42,291	6,700	2,800	41.8
1913	Columbus.....	Wis.	2,523	53.2	53,696	6,499	2,600	40.0
1910	Jefferson.....	Wis.	2,582	75.0	51,524	6,208	2,560	41.2
1915	Prairie du Chien....	Wis.	3,179		78,400	5,418	2,800	51.7
1913	Fort Atkinson.....	Wis.	3,300	51.0	73,424	9,156	3,600	39.3
1910	Ripon.....	Wis.	3,811	65.2	103,101	12,923	6,082	47.1
1913	Sparta.....	Wis.	3,973	55.0	98,599	11,047	4,400	39.8
1911	Oconto.....	Wis.	5,629	57.5	125,000	19,031	9,800	51.5
1912	Neenah.....	Wis.	5,734	54.5	117,038	12,850	5,850	45.5
1916	Merrill.....	Wis.	8,689	47.0	200,000	*30,415	11,000	36.2
1914	Watertown.....	Wis.	8,829	47.2	202,677	23,394	8,500	36.3
1915	Brazil.....	Ind.	9,340	70.0	128,383	18,987	6,361	33.0
1917	Lincoln.....	Ill.	10,892	43.0	215,000	29,850	9,651	32.4
1914	Ashland.....	Wis.	11,594	54.5	480,000	65,000	21,000	32.3
1911	Janesville.....	Wis.	13,894	54.0	250,000	38,724	15,800	40.8
1911	Marinette.....	Wis.	14,610	38.5	326,759	47,630	14,800	31.1
1911	Beloit.....	Wis.	15,125	48.0	289,512	41,565	14,687	35.3
1915	Beloit.....	Wis.	15,125	48.0	402,000	60,323	16,659	27.6
1915	Appleton.....	Wis.	16,773	45.0	525,000	50,616	19,000	37.5
1912	Eau Claire.....	Wis.	18,310	48.5	314,987	*46,655	15,000	32.2
1913	Green Bay.....	Wis.	25,236	48.7	683,229	*88,665	34,000	39.8
1910	Madison.....	Wis.	25,531	49.6	650,000	62,260	20,000	32.1
1914	Sheboygan.....	Wis.	26,398	46.0	507,739	69,176	27,500	39.8
1912	Superior.....	Wis.	40,384	46.0	838,242	110,146	27,900	25.3

* Estimated.

Decisions of Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania regarding fire protection

YEAR OF REPORT	NAME OF COMPANY	POPULATION SERVED	VALUE OF PLANT	GROSS REVENUE	PER CENT OF GROSS FROM FIRE	PER HYDRANT	PER MILE	REVENUE FROM FIRE	EQUIVALENT PER HYDRANT
1916	Beaver Valley	40,000	\$985,000	\$135,950	18.5+	\$7	\$400	\$25,000	\$64.24
1917	Portage	4,000	132,520	*8,935	15	175			
1918	Portage		Increased to		16.2	15	195	1,453+	51.91
1917	Ohio Valley	45,300	924,744	135,138	20.0	7	329	27,034	67.92
1917	West'md	60,955	1,100,000	156,520	17.3—			26,500	
1917	West'md Increased		1,125,000	158,270	17.1—	9	485	26,500	97.07
1918	Spring-field Consol.	Approx.							
	Spring-field Consol.	150,000	8,251,420	899,732	18.9—	7	355	169,893	137.45+
		Including Private Fire			20.0+			180,130	

* \$8,935, within the borough and \$16,113 total. The decision referred only to revenue from fire protection within the city but the Commission found that the total revenue within the borough should amount to \$12,881, to give a fair return.